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NJ COPS TARGETED BLACKS, LATINOS TO FULFILL TICKET QUOTAS

For close to a decade North Brunswick Police lined their pockets with the financial rewards of ticket writing.



It was an unofficial policy called 'Hunting at the border' referring to the border between North Brunswick and New Brunswick, and roads heavily trafficked by minorities, pg3.



CELEBRATE THOSE WHO DARE TO DREAM

#BE100

In honor of **Black History Month**, we celebrate those who dare to turn their wildest dreams into reality. This includes 100 exceptional teens selected to experience a life-changing weekend alongside community leaders and celebrities at Disney Dreamers Academy at *Walt Disney World Resort*. Learn more and follow the journey at disneydreamersacademy.com

Disney
DREAMERS ACADEMY
WITH STEVE HARVEY AND ESSENCE MAGAZINE

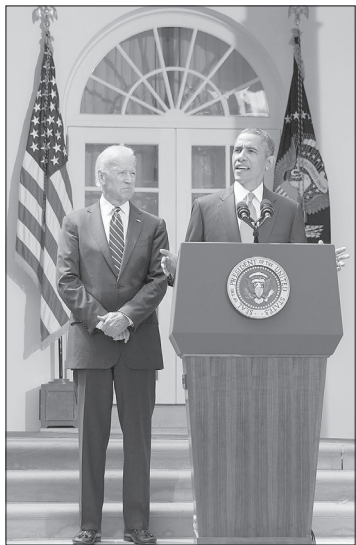
WALT DISNEY World Resort

Biden: 'I am in the fight of my life'

By Hamil R. Harris

Vice President Joseph Biden had been seen as next for the presidency after his faithful service to President Barack Obama. But, suddenly Black voters appear to be taking a second look.

- Like a boxer punching his way back from a political knock down, former Vice-President Joe Biden recently told a crowd of supporters in Columbia South Carolina, "I know that I am in the fight of my life." And in that fight, the African-American vote will be critical.



Vice President Joseph Biden had been seen as next for the presidency after his faithful service to President Barack Obama. But, suddenly Black voters appear to be taking a second look. PHOTO: White House Archives

From the Nevada Caucus this Saturday, February 20 to the South Carolina Primary next week, Feb. 29, Biden is fighting hard to remain in the 2020 Presidential race that has a record number of candidates in the test.

But the real test for Biden will actually come on Tuesday, March 3, when voters cast ballots in 14 states: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Virginia.

In addition, voters in American Samoa and those living abroad will also vote on day when a third of all Democratic voters will cast ballots.

After voting in Iowa and New Hampshire, the delegate tally is as follows: Mayor Pete Buttigieg has

22 delegates, Sen. Bernie Sanders has 21, Sen Elizabeth Warren has eight and Sen Amy Klobuchar has seven delegates. Biden came in 5th place.

New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg is also racking up major endorsements to challenge Biden who has been expected to win in South Carolina. Biden kicked off his campaign with a

dramatic video on how Trump fanned the flames of race hate in Charlottesville, Va. His eight-year service alongside President Obama was also expected to boost his chances.

But Biden's advantages have been significantly undercut by billionaire Bloomberg who has been spreading money in the Black community, including a historic \$3.5 million ad buy in Black newspapers.

Black churches and Black women are also expected to play significant rolls in votes in South Carolina as well as on Super Tuesday.

Rev. Ianter Mills, pastor of the Ashbury United Methodist Church in DC, noted the fact that three of the five major Democratic contenders are female and "Women have the opportunity to make a critical difference in this election." She said for months Methodist women have been organizing in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of a woman's right to vote and "the women's suffrage movement."

But the Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church for the state of Alabama says as soon as the Democrats can unite behind one candidate the better it will be for the party to challenge President Trump, who has main-

Continued on page 7



New report: White supremacist propaganda doubles for 2nd straight year with subtler messaging

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Distribution of white supremacist materials—from pamphlets to signage to bulletins—spiked by more than 120 percent between 2018 and 2019, says a new report published by the Anti-Defamation League.

Released today (h/t The Associated Press), the report from the ADL's Center on Extremism tracked propaganda incidents across 49 states. In total, the anti-bias group counted 2,713 cases of white supremacist groups distributing fliers, posters, and banners last year. In 2018, the ADL documented 1,214 cases of propaganda.

While the ADL has only been tracking the circulation

of propaganda material since 2017, there is a clear trajectory. Between 2017 and 2018, distribution increased by 180 percent. 2019 marked the second year in a row that circulation of white supremacist material more than doubled.

This propaganda stands apart from hate crimes and attacks like graffiti and vandalism, which the ADL has also been monitoring. No one geographic region was insulated from this trend, either. According to its numbers, distribution of white supremacist materials occurred most often in California, Texas, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, Virginia, Kentucky, Washington, and Florida.

NJ cops purposely targeted, ticketed Blacks, Latinos to meet ticket quotas

By Victor Omondi

For close to a decade The North Brunswick police Department has been full of racially discriminatory practices that target black and Latino neighborhoods. They have been allowing officers to target these neighborhoods to fulfill ticket quotas with the claim that there was a financial reward to rack up numbers. Essentially they were more interested in filling up their pockets at the expense of people of color.

NBC News writes, "According to an investigation by NBC New York's I-Team, officers targeted minority neighborhoods in order to fulfill ticket quotas, racking up more and more overtime pay with each ticket they wrote — an unofficial

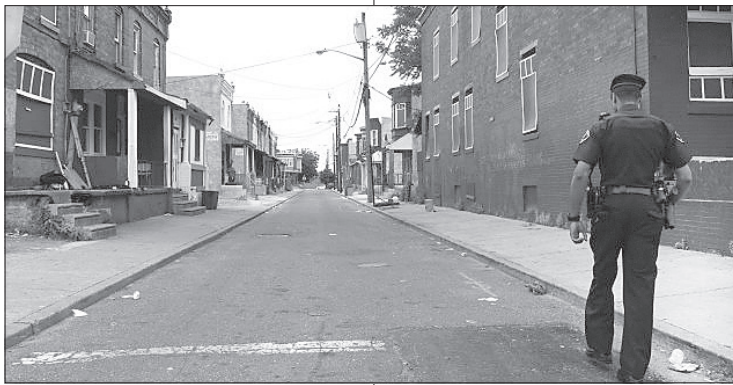
policy that was widely understood in the department, police say. They called the practice "hunting at the border," referring to the border between North Brunswick and New Brunswick, and roads heavily trafficked by minorities."

The more tickets the officers fulfilled, the more money they would receive in overtime pay. And this was their motivation according to Veteran police officer Mike Campbell.

One of the officers said that they would write u tickets for minor infractions, so as to fulfill quotas faster. This meant they would write tickets for petty things that didn't count like "something hanging from the mirror."

Another officer also stated,

while talking to NBC New York, "They're saying they're going out hunting. You go to traffic court and you see the impact. Ninety percent of the people you see there are blacks and Latinos."



Like 'Stop and frisk' New Jersey police admit targeting minority neighborhoods, "Hunting at the border"

Philadelphiaobserver.com

of the words "hunting expedition," this act of racial profiling was literally termed "Hunting at the border" as the practice was carried out at the border between North and New Brunswick and other roads that minorities are known to travel heavily.

Officer Mike Campbell spoke with the I-team about this infuriatingly racist expletive..... the practice which went on for almost a decade, according to [NBC News](#).

"For every 40 tickets written, that would be a minimum of 4 hours overtime, even if you ended up going to court for five minutes," said Campbell adding that there was no official policy, only an unwritten understanding in the Department.

Another officer, who asked the I-Team to conceal his identity, said, "Guys were going out. They were competing for how many tickets each guy could get."

A different cop, also unidentified said in reference to the practice's nefarious moniker, "They're saying they're going out hunting. You go to traffic court and you see the impact. 90% of the people you see there are blacks and Latinos."

Federal investigation results in sentencing for 64 white supremacists

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The Spokesman-Review reports that 64 various members of white nationalist gangs in North Texas have been sentenced to a collective 820 years. That averages out to about 12.8 years per person. This sentencing concludes a six-year-long investigation involving 153 white nationalists. The other 89 were



sentenced back in 2017 to a collective 1,070 years in prison.

Their sentencing comes as a result of charges ranging from drugs and firearms to kidnapping, threats and assault. U.S Attorney Erin Nealy Cox said, "Not only do white supremacist gangs endorse repugnant ideologies, they also facilitate a violent drug and gun trade, putting our citizens in grave danger."

As with New York's "Stop and frisk" policy that targeted Black and Latino people disproportionately, New Jersey has started its own hunting expedition.

According to an investigation by NBC New York's I-Team, officers in the North Brunswick Police Department targeted Black and Latino neighborhoods in order to fulfill ticket quotas and rack up overtime pay. This was done in accordance with an unofficial policy that was widely understood in the department, police say.

And just in case you thought I was being hyperbolic in my choice

Black history

'The Color Purple' returns to big screen for Black history month



Philadelphiaobserver.com

In celebration of its 35th anniversary, "The Color Purple" is returning to theaters for Black History Month.

Directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Oprah Winfrey and Whoopi Goldberg, the cinematic classic is based on the characters from Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of the same name. The story follows the life of Celie Johnson (Goldberg) as she struggles through life in the early 1900s.

"The Color Purple" marked Winfrey's first film role and Goldberg's second.

The film was released theatrically in 1985, and nabbed 11 Academy Award nominations,

including Best Picture, Best Original Score, and acting nominations for Goldberg, Winfrey, and costar Margaret Avery.

"The Color Purple" also received NAACP Image Awards for Best Picture and Best Actress, and was named Best Film of 1985 by the National Board of Review.

Oprah launched her infamous talk show "The Oprah Winfrey Show" a year after the film's release. Goldberg won a Golden Globe for her performance.

Presented by Fathom Events and TCM, the one-day-only "The Color Purple" event will take place Sunday, Feb. 23 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. (local time) at more than 600 screens. Tickets can be purchased at FathomEvents.com.

John Conyers—longest-serving Black congress member in history

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Conyers, the longtime Detroit lawmaker was born in Highland Park, Mich. on May 16, 1929.

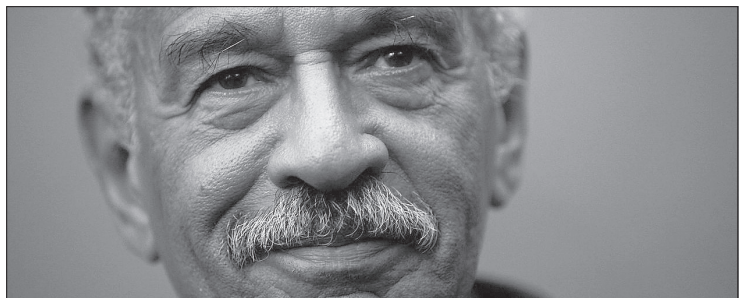
Conyers embarked on a military career out of high school, first with the Michigan National Guard, then the U.S. Army, and lastly with the U.S. Army Reserves. After his military career ended, Conyers entered Wayne State University, earning a bachelor's and a L.L.B. degree.

Ahead of his political career, Conyers was active in the civil rights movement. After getting elected to represent Michigan's 1st District in 1964, he began his long half-century trek as a politician the following year, representing the 14th District in 1993, and then the 13th District in 2013, before resigning after a number of sexual harassment claims.

Conyers also faced other controversies, including accusations that he ordered staffers to tutor his wife and children, and used government vehicles for his personal errands, making staffers drive him around to appointments.

Despite the dings to his legacy, Conyers advanced liberal policies and was a champion of the working class in Detroit. He was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and was the longest-serving Black Congress member in history. Conyers was also the first Black Dean of the House, which designates the longest continually serving member.

In addition to a number of measures that aided Michigan residents, one of his most notable pieces of legislation was first introducing the bill declaring Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a national holiday.



PART TWO SIT IN

60 Years Ago—students launched a sit-in movement

By Dr. Kelton Edmonds,

Unique weapons for non-violent students

Ultimately, all mass student protests of the 1960s and thereafter owe their viability to the student-led Greensboro protests of 1960, including student black power activists and anti-war activists of the late 60s and 70s. Although its origins predate 1960, even one of the largest and most noteworthy national student organizations, Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), owe its resurgence and major elements of its effectiveness to the spark ignited by the Greensboro Four on February 1, 1960.

Even recent episodes of student activism exhibited in the Ferguson, Missouri protests of 2014-15, as well as the student protests led by black students at the University of Missouri in 2015, which ultimately led to the resignation of the chancellor, have attributes that correlate to the 1960 student movement. The student movement of 1960, ignited by the Greensboro Four, provided a blueprint for future students to build upon, perfect, and utilize in a variety of ways for a plethora of circumstances.

Most importantly, what happened in 1960 showed young people the power they possessed to address their grievances and ultimately bring about change on both local and national levels if they organized themselves and remained committed.

The legacies and larger significance of the 1960 sit-in movement, sparked in Greensboro

Similar to the successful 1955



Montgomery Bus Boycott, the students' triumphant coordinated protests in 1960 further demonstrated how mass economic boycotts could lead to desegregationist social victories, particularly when targeting businesses that relied heavily on black patronage. The Greensboro Four only set out to challenge and change the discriminatory practices of the local Woolworth's, yet their movement expanded exponentially to ultimately bring about the desegregation of all Woolworth's lunch counters in the country.

The students of the Civil Rights era suddenly possessed a new weapon, the mass sit-in, which would continue to be used in Greensboro and around the country in various forms. The sit-ins combined with the freedom rides led to black students establishing their unique value and niche to the larger Civil Rights Movement. Black students understood their unique, collective power and desired to harness their efforts under a national apparatus. Consequently, another major legacy of the student movement that emerged in Greensboro was it also directly

led to the birth of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in April of 1960 in nearby Raleigh, NC on the campus of Shaw University.

SNCC would soon emerge as one of the most formidable organizations of the decade, elevating students to the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement.

After marveling at the magnitude and effectiveness of the student protesters during the sit-ins, major Civil Rights organizations such as the NAACP, SCLC and CORE pressured the students to collapse their meteoric movement into the youth wing of one of their institutions under their supervision.

The students however, decided to remain autonomous and formulate their own student-led organization, while still adhering to non-violent principles. The students' decision to remain student-led received noteworthy support from several key adult Civil Rights leaders in Greensboro in addition to Ella Baker from SCLC.

Ultimately, all mass student protests of the 1960s and there-

Continued on page 10

Dizzy Gillespie – 'The Ambassador of Jazz.'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Dizzy Gillespie, with his signature puffed cheeks, horned-rim glasses, beret and bent-bell trumpet, used this musical talent to become a world-renowned figure in the world of jazz. The late trumpeter was born October 21, 1917 in Cheraw, S.C.

John Birks Gillespie grew up in a musical household and began playing instruments as a preschooler under his bandleader father's guidance. Gillespie, who taught himself the trombone and the trumpet, earned a music scholarship to North Carolina's Laurinburg Institute where he studied for a couple of years before moving with his family to Philadelphia.

As a teenager, Gillespie became a professional musician with the

Frank Fairfax Orchestra before branching out on his own as a freelance player. He began a two-year stint with Cab Calloway's orchestra but was ousted from the band after he allegedly threw a spitball at the bandleader, which set off a fight that ended with Gillespie stabbing Calloway in the leg.

From 1937 to 1944, Gillespie played with a number of rising jazz legends in swing bands while leading as well. Along with Charlie "Bird" Parker, the pair developed the be-bop style, moving jazz away from its more straightforward roots and elevating a looser, free-form playing style. Gillespie is also considered a pioneer in bringing Latin and Caribbean influences to the genre. After meeting Cuban musician Chano Pozo, the two developed what is



now widely known as Afro-Cuban jazz. Gillespie later toured with

In 1956, the U.S. State Department funded efforts to bring jazz to the global stage with Gillespie leading the effort, earning him the nickname and unofficial title of "The Ambassador of Jazz." Although his career waned somewhat in the '70s and '80s, he remained a fixture and fierce champion of the genre that he helped to modernize until his final days.

#DanceLikeaDad



fatherhood.gov

Editorial

Philadelphia Observer

Trump's 2021 budget reflects his values



By Julianne Malveaux

- If you tell me how you spend your money, I can tell you what your values are. You say you are a Christian but neither tithe nor have a church home. You say support civil rights but have no connection to a civil rights organization. You love your alma mater never contribute to the place.

Put your money where your mouth is. Budgets are reflections of values. Thus, I was unsurprised with the budget our forty-fifth President (also known as "Forty-five") proposed to Congress on February 10. His budget-cuts domestic programs, maintains defense spending and targets poor people. It cuts education, housing, and environmental protection.

It would eliminate our art and cultural agencies, including the National Institute for the Arts, the National Institutes for Humanities, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Forty-five's hostility to poor people is reflected in reductions in Medicaid, food stamps, and the CHIP program, which provides health care for poor children. And while he is starving poor people, he insists on preserving the 2017 tax cuts that mostly benefitted the wealthy. I'm not surprised that "forty-five" maintains his hostility to the poor. We've seen this in the previous budgets that he's presented to Congress. He favors cuts in domestic spending, increases in military spending, a wall (which he has directed the Pentagon to fund), and indifference to the environment.

The budget shows contempt for the planet and its survival. 45 would cut the Environmental Protection Agency's budget by more than a quarter, through the EPA budget, and even more with environmental initiatives that are embedded in other budgets. For example, with our crumbling infrastructure, the 45 budget cuts the Transportation Department by 13 percent, cutting highway infrastructure programs and transit grants. The Department of Interior is proposed to shoulder a 13 percent cut, reducing land acquisition, conservation, and assistance for Native American tribes.

This administration's hostility toward environmental protection is evidenced by the fact that Mandy Gunasekara, who spearheaded the rollback on President Obama's Clean Power Plan, is returning to the EPA as chief of staff this spring. She has advocated scaling back rules on greenhouse emissions

and is credited with urging the President to leave the Paris accord.

Until 2017, the world has looked toward the United States for global leadership, but this most recent budget would reduce our involvement in world affairs. The State Department and USAID would be cut by \$12 billion, more than a fifth less than last year. Virtually everything in the USAID and State budgets is reduced, including humanitarian aid, contributions to international organizations, and cultural exchanges; only Ivanka Trump's Women's Global Development fund seems to have been protected, with its allocation doubling!

The Department of Veteran's Affairs is the only Cabinet agency that will experience a double-digit budget increase of 12 percent. After a series of scandals involving the delivery of health service to the nation's veterans, few would dispute the need for a stronger agency. But wonders if the \$12 billion increase in this agency's budget will improve efficiency, or if it is merely pandering to veterans, a core part of the President's base.

NASA is another agency that gets a double-digit budget increase, partly to fund space exploration. The Defense Department budget remains relatively flat, with an increase at just one-tenth of one percent. The budget is generous enough, however, to purchase new nuclear warheads and new missiles. It also will fund an arms race with China and Russia. What if just a tenth of the "defense" (I consider it an offense) budget were devoted to human needs? That would be \$70 billion to, perhaps, restore the \$9.5 billion Health and Human Services cut, restore the \$5.6 billion

Department of Education cuts, to restore the \$1.3 billion cut to the Labor Department ("savings" will be realized by cutting unemployment insurance, and payment to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, among other programs/ That \$70 billion could also restore the \$1.9 billion cut from the Agriculture Department.

I'm fantasizing, of course. Few in our warmongering nation would have the nerve to cut the defense budget. Predatory capitalism and the war-industrial complex will keep our "defense" department in business, with companies that manufacture nuclear warheads, missiles, and more, raking in record profits.

This budget illustrates what this administration is all about. It is hostile to poor folks, to culture, to education, and to farmers. It is unwilling to spend money on international relations. It is willing to continue to reward the wealthy for just being wealthy. It reflects forty-five's values.

But there's good news. Congress has failed to pass forty-five's budget in the past, and they probably won't pass it this time either. With a Democratic majority in the House, human needs will likely have a higher priority. It won't cut State and USAID budgets. It's a good thing Congress has more of a conscience than the President does. But this budget is a wake-up call for those who want health care and also a second Trump term. The two are incompatible.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author, media contributor and educator. Her latest project MALVEAUX! On UDCTV is available on youtube.com. For booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.julianmalveaux.com

Fear paralyzes

By Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq.

—With all the fearmongering, the unjust firings, transfers, the name-calling, the profanity laced rantings, the lying, the mean spirited actions, the early negative predictions about the Democratic Party and its candidates—one could just give up and ask, "What's the use of trying to make a difference about anything?"

Well, I'm not on that list of the fearful, nor are many of my friends and associates. All is not lost because Joe Biden may not be the Democratic nominee for President. All Black people aren't suddenly jumping over Joe to get to Michael Bloomberg. Those of us who've seen Black people rise to the occasion at the voting booth so many times haven't conceded the November 2020 election to Donald Trump.

We continue to hear on the news how important the Black vote is. If that's the case, it's up to us whether we choose to be the victors for winning where we have such power or whether we choose to be blamed when candidates not in our best interest win.

If we choose to win, why should we be fearful? Those of us who believe what we've been taught that "God has not given us a spirit of fear." 2nd Timothy tells us that what the Apostle Paul was saying to his young friend is that his fear was standing in his way of success. All of us have struggles but we shouldn't allow them to control us to the point that we lose faith in our ability to succeed. My friend, Dick Gregory, always said that fear and God do not occupy the same space, and we should not allow fear to block our good. If we put it out there, we're sabotaging what we claim to want.

Let's not become paralyzed and do nothing because somebody thinks we're going to stay home or we don't believe we can help to get a new occupant in the White House. Let's go forward courageously doing all the things we can to win an election that brings about justice.

God is faithful. Let's look at the full promise that says, "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

Instead of fearing the worst, let's be like

the Apostle Paul by mentoring the doubters and the fearful. Instead of criticizing them, let's help them believe we have the power to make a difference in the coming election. Never allow our friends or families to concede the election to those who mean us no good.

Even if we're not in need of a hand up, think about children at the border who've been kept in cages, children who don't have nutritious meals, those who don't have access to a safe home or a useable education. Think about the damage already done to a system some of our ancestors died to make better. Think of the embarrassment about our so-called leaders we face as we travel around the world. Think about the threats faced by Americans who put their jobs and their lives on the line to testify before the House Impeachment Committee. Think about those who were too afraid to testify or to vote against what is evil and un-American.

So many of those who remained silent and try to make us believe they're pro-Constitution are really traitors because they resisted every effort to be guided by the Constitution in making their decisions



about impeachment and conviction of the scoundrel in the White House.

As was said in the movie "Black Panther" we have a duty to protect those we love, so let us never fear being courageous no matter what the consequences are.

(Dr. E. Faye Williams is President of the National Congress of Black Women, Inc. She's also host of "Wake Up and Stay Woke" on WPFW-FM 89.3.)

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Sambo be damned! Black fashion model refused to wear 'racist' accessories at FIT show

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A black model at a Fashion Institute of Technology runway show is blowing the whistle about being pressured to wear accessories like "monkey ears" and oversized lips.

For the Feb. 7 FIT event, 25-year-old Amy Lefevre was told that it "was fine to feel uncomfortable for only 45 seconds" to wear what she said was "clearly racist."

According to the New York Post, the brown-skinned beauty has been modeling for four years and appeared on more than two dozen catwalks.

Understanding the bigotry that continues to persist in the business, she nearly had a convulsion fit during this particular ordeal.

"I was literally shaking," she revealed to the outlet. "I could not control my emotions. My whole body was shaking. I have never felt like that in my life."

"People of color are struggling too much in 2020 for the pro-



motors not to have vetted and cleared accessories for the shows," she said.

Lefevre did end up walking the runway but didn't wear the ears or the bright-red synthetic lips, which reportedly came from a sex toy – perhaps inspired by buxom transgender club queen and plastic surgery poster child Amanda Lepore (who was rumored to be involved with Kanye West, before Kim Kardashian.)

She said she stormed out of the event immediately afterwards.

The designs were created by Junkai Huang, a recent FIT graduate.

The native of China did not appear to understand the racial overtones of his work.

Based in Chelsea, the 7,406-student school is one of the most prestigious among the taxpayer-funded State University of New York (SUNY) system.

Chicago high schoolers hold sit-in after teacher told student 'Go back to your Country'



Philadelphiaobserver.com

According to NBC News, students at Senn High School in Chicago staged a sit-in on Wednesday to protest a teacher's racist remark. The remark occurred

during a Hispanic heritage assembly in January. Student Yésica Salazar, 17, sat during the National Anthem along with a few other students. They were doing so in protest of U.S. immigration policies, police brutality and the wave

of anti-immigrant rhetoric that has become too commonplace these days. A teacher asked her to explain her stance and before she could even finish, he reportedly told her to "go back to your country." An anonymous student posted footage of the sit-in on Twitter.

The school has a predominantly Latino population, which makes his comments especially jarring.

Mary Beck, the school's principal, told students during the sit-in that she had reported the teacher to the school district immediately after the incident occurred. This led students to ask her why the teacher is still at the school.

The school district's press secretary, James Gherardi, said that an investigation has been opened into the teacher's remark. There is no word on whether the teacher is still in the classroom.

Biden: 'I am in the fight of my life'

From page 3

tained a solid base even as the Republican Party in general has shown signs of wear.

"We are hoping that we can gain a consensus behind a candidate," Bishop Harry Seawright, Presiding Prelate of the Ninth Episcopal District. "The Democratic field is so fragmented we can't miss this opportunity."

Seawright said those needing motivation should be in Selma on March 1 for the commemoration of "Blood Sunday," when on March 7, 1965 Civil Rights workers marching for voting rights were beaten and blooded by state police officers in Selma, Alabama as they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, who served on President Obama's Faith Council, said, "There are 8 million unregistered Black people who could make a difference from the White House to the State House and we have to get people to see that their futures are at stake. When they vote for a President they are voting for their families and their loved ones."

Skinner said in the weeks to come, more national get out to vote campaigns will be rolled out and it will be critical for voters to look beyond race, color and personalities.

But Jamila Woods, Pastor of Jabez Christian Church in White Plains, pointed out that "The Democratic Party is faced with a

plethora of challenges in an effort to take back the White House. In addition to the critical need to get out the vote, there must be limitless efforts to reunite this very fragmented party."

Woods concluded, "There must be a parallel determination to bring individuals, faith communities, social justice organizations and like-minded people together, who recognize the hypocrisy spiraling us backward to a place where the ideology of 'great' was demonstrably ascribed through hate. There can no longer be the suicidal social action of failing to support the party, in deference to a greater evil, when disagreement fails to move a preferred candidate forward."



Program allows inmates to earn college degrees while behind bars

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Hudson Link, a New York-based non-profit organization, has a program for inmates that allows them to earn college degrees even though they're still behind bars. Upon release from prison, inmates who earned a degree through the program have just a 2% chance of being re-incarcerated compared to the 43% general rate of recidivism in the state.

Aside from turning around the lives of the inmates, Hudson Link also claims to help save New York State taxpayers from millions of dollars. While it costs \$60,000 per year to jail an individual in New York State, it only costs \$5,000 to provide them education while in prison.

The degree programs are now offered for free as donations and sponsorships poured in from private organizations and individ-

uals. Hudson Link is currently operational in 6 correctional facilities, in partnership with 7 colleges that offered degree options in behavioral sciences and liberal arts.

Since its inception in 1998, Hudson Link has already awarded about 700 degrees to inmates. Currently, there are 600 more students in state prison that are enrolled in the program.

The organization was founded by Sean Pica, who found himself sent to prison at the age of 16. When he was freed after his reduced sentence of 16 years, he started making efforts to provide support and a second chance in life to inmates.

"I think a lot of our prisons in this country were built on an effort of punishment," Pica told FreeThink. "But when you punish somebody, there's got to be something about rehabilitation and second chances, and that's what we're doing in these prisons."

Children beg Chicago police 'Please don't shoot me' during another wrong raid incident

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The Chicago Police Department is once again at the center public outrage after newly uncovered video shows officers holding children at gunpoint during a botched raid.

The footage is being used as evidence in an investigation into police raids and the dozens of innocent victims who have been traumatized by overzealous cops.

According to a local CBS affiliate CBS 2, in this particular incident, officers not only entered the wrong residence but also interrogated the minors and held them at gunpoint.

"They're handling heavy artillery," the mother of the children, Krystal Archie, said of police. "It would've taken one slip of your



finger and my children would not be here."

The news station obtained body cam video from the police attack on Archie's home, and it shows authorities pointing guns directly at the children — see clip above.

The residence was reportedly raided three times — once in February, a second time in April, and once again in May of last year.

Reel

By Audrey J. Bernard

The Photograph is a picture perfect love story



LaKeith Stanfield, Stella Meghie, Issa Rae, Chanté Adams, And Kelvin Harrison Jr. Attend As Universal Pictures Presents The Premiere Of "The Photograph" At Sva Theater On Tuesday, February 11, 2020, in New York City

From Universal Pictures comes **The Photograph**, a picture perfect story about Black love released Friday, February 14, 2020, the day set aside for romance — Valentine's Day! From writer-director **Stella Meghie** (*The Weekend*, *Jean of the Joneses*) comes a sweeping love story about forgiveness and finding the courage to seek the truth, no matter where it may lead

you. The movie stars **Issa Rae** (HBO's *Insecure*, *Little*) and **LaKeith Stanfield** (FX's *Atlanta*, *Sorry to Bother You*) whose powerful mutual affection is steeped in unconditional love and redemption.

The romantic drama also stars **Chelsea Peretti**, **Lil Rel Howery**, **Courtney B. Vance**, **Chanté Adams**, **Y'lan Noel**, and **Rob Morgan**, along with **Jasmine Cephas Jones**, **Tayo-**

nah Parris and **Kelvin Harrison Jr.** Look for this movie to become an instant Valentine's Day classic with its stunning visuals and mesmeric chemistry between Rae and LaKeith. Their sexuality jumps off the screen and you'll find yourself lapping it up scene after scene after scene.

DEETS: When famed photographer Christina Eames unexpectedly dies, she leaves her

estranged daughter Mae Morton (Rae) hurt, angry and full of questions. When a photograph tucked away in a safe-deposit box is found, Mae finds herself on a journey delving into her mother's early life and ignites a powerful, unexpected romance with a rising-star journalist, Michael Block (Stanfield).

ASSETS: A Universal Pictures release of a Will Packer Productions, Perfect World Pictures production. Producers: **Will Packer**, **James Lopez**. Executive producer: **Stella Meghie**, **Erika Hampson**, **Issa Rae**. **CREW:** Director, screenplay: **Stella Meghie**. Camera: **Mark Schwartzbard**. Editor: **Shannon Baker Davis**. Music: **Robert Glasper**. (Photos



Ron Meyer, Issa Rae

by Bennett Raglin/Getty Images For Universal Pictures)



Issa Rae is a vision of exquisiteness on the red carpet



Phoenix Noelle, Rylee Gabrielle King



Nia Franklin, Lil Rel Howery



Marsha Stephanie Blake



James Lopez, Robert Glasper



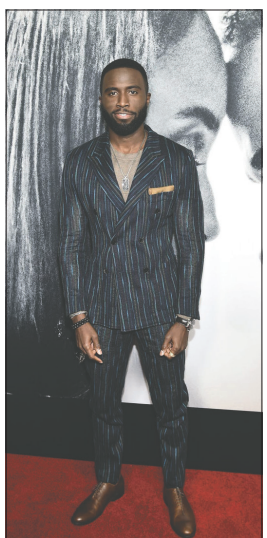
LaKeith Stanfield



Teyonah Parris



Kelvin Harrison Jr.



Y'lan Noel



Issa Rae



Wakeema Hollis



Lil Rel Howery



Dakota Paradise



Y'lan Noel, Chanté Adams



Stella Meghie, Will Packer



From the desk of
MIKE BLOOMBERG

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking the time to learn about The Greenwood Initiative.

As someone who has been very lucky in life, I often say my story would only have been possible in America – and that’s true. But I also know that because of the artificial barriers of discrimination, my story likely would have turned out very differently if I had been Black, and that more Black Americans of my generation would have ended up with far more wealth, had they been white.

Building Generational Wealth for Black Families is Critical. That’s why I launched The Greenwood Initiative in Tulsa last month. I visited the site of the Black Wall Street Massacre, where a white mob decimated the prosperous community of Greenwood. It is to the memory of the lost lives and promise of Greenwood that we’ve dedicated The Greenwood Initiative: a plan to address the systematic bias that has kept Black Americans from building wealth.

THE GREENWOOD PLAN WILL:

- Create 1 million new Black homeowners
- Double the number of new Black-owned businesses
- Invest \$70 billion in the country’s 100 most disadvantaged neighborhoods

Fixing the System for Black Families. When I was mayor of New York, I was proud to take on the systematic inequality that held back too many New Yorkers. **We increased education funding, built 650 new schools and raised Black graduation rates to record highs.** We led an ambitious effort to reduce poverty and managed the largest amount of affordable housing in the nation. And as President, I will work even more aggressively to combat inequality nationwide.

I understand that undoing generations of systematic discrimination won’t happen overnight, but we can make progress with a clear vision and a comprehensive plan. I’ve included a pamphlet along with this letter that lays out my plan. When I’m President, implementing The Greenwood Initiative will be a top priority.

Join me in ending the systemic inequality that has held Black Americans back for too long!

Sincerely,


Mike Bloomberg



PAID FOR BY MIKE BLOOMBERG 2020

For more information visit

MikeForBlackAmerica.com

Culture



Colin Kaepernick to release a memoir under his own publishing company

Newyorkbeacon.com

Colin Kaepernick has announced plans to drop a memoir later this year that will be released through his newly formed company, Kaepernick Publishing.

Audible, the audiobook company owned by Amazon, will release an audio version of the memoir, as well as other Kaepernick Publishing projects.

"I want to tell the story of my

evolution, and the events that led me to protest systemic oppression, in hopes that it will inspire others to rise in action," the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback said in a statement.

The memoir is described as revealing "the life experiences that led him to risk his career as a star NFL Super Bowl quarterback in one silent act of protest."

No title or release date has been announced.

Lynn Whitfield endorses Joe Biden for president because public service is his 'North star'

Newyorkbeacon.com

I grew up in Baton Rouge at a time that feels very different from the world we know today. In my family, public service was woven into everything we did. We'd sit around the kitchen table and talk about politics at just about every meal. I grew up around people who were aware that you're supposed to serve. It was a part of my training.

And even as I was developing a love of entertainment, watching legends like Harry Belafonte, Ruby Dee and Sidney Poitier light up the stage and screen, I was inspired by their activism as much as their acting.

It helped that my mother was a volunteer driver for the Baton Rouge bus boycott that preceded Montgomery and was an active member of the NAACP, like my aunt, whose name appeared on the longest-running school desegregation suit in the country. And my grandfather was a country doctor whose commitment to serving the community was so



great that when patients couldn't afford his services, he would take produce for payment and do all that he could for free. Because we are all in it together.

In the era of Donald Trump, that kind of thinking can sometimes feel like ancient history. But there's one candidate in this race who understands the fabric that used to hold American communities like mine together — and can unite our country once again.

DeMane Davis: Black female director of Netflix's Madam CJ Walker film in high demand

Newyorkbeacon.com

DeMane Davis is a television director and producer whose most recent work is the highly anticipated series "Self Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam CJ Walker" (Netflix/March 20.) The limited series stars Octavia Spencer, Blair Underwood & Tiffany Haddish and Davis produced and directed the last 2 episodes (of the 4 part series).

Davis learned about the first self-made female millionaire while in elementary school. The story of Sarah Breedlove (Madam CJ Walker) — a woman whose parents were slaves, who persevered to become a philanthropist and create a business along with processes and products that are still used today — stuck with her.

Davis was actually a receptionist at a hair salon after college and even flirted with the idea of becoming a hairdresser herself, so she sought out the producers as soon as she heard Madam CJ Walker's story was going to be told.

She was honored to help round out the talented producers and crew, many of whom are Black women, including showrunners and writers Janine Sherman Barrois and Elle Johnson; writer and producer Nicole Jefferson Asher; legendary director Kasi Lemmons; Director of Photography, Kira Kelly and



Line Producer, Lena Cordina. For Davis, producing and directing "Self Made" was a dream come true.

Davis began her career writing and directing indie features. Both of her films premiered in Dramatic Competition at the Sundance Film Festival and internationally at Edinburgh. She's best known for "Lift," the story of a "booster" or professional shoplifter which was selected for the prestigious Sundance Director's and Screenwriter's Labs. It starred Kerry Washington in her first leading role. "Lift" was honored with two Spirit Award nominations before airing originally on Showtime and now is streaming on Amazon.

'American Masters — Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool' premieres Feb. 25 – trailer

Newyorkbeacon.com

This month, in honor of Black History Month, American Masters presents the broadcast premiere of award-winning filmmaker Stanley Nelson's Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool, which earned a Grammy nomination in the "Best Music Film" category.

The doc delves into the six-decade career of the musical genius, with Quincy Jones, Carlos Santana, Clive Davis, Wayne Shorter, Marcus Miller, Ron Carter and other luminaries weighing in on the life and career of the cultural icon.

Previously unseen footage and a soundtrack full of Davis's music are complemented by new interviews with friends, fellow musicians, collaborators and scholars to create a full portrait of the complex man.



60 Years Ago—students launched a sit-in movement

From page 4

after owe their viability to the student-led Greensboro protests of 1960, including student black power activists and anti-war activists of the late 60s and 70s. Although its origins predate 1960, even one of the largest and most noteworthy national student organizations, Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), owe its resurgence and major elements of its effectiveness to the spark ignited by the Greensboro Four on February 1, 1960.

Even recent episodes of student activism exhibited in the

Ferguson, Missouri protests of 2014-15, as well as the student protests led by black students at the University of Missouri in 2015, which ultimately led to the resignation of the chancellor, have attributes that correlate to the 1960 student movement. The student movement of 1960, ignited by the Greensboro Four, provided a blueprint for future students to build upon, perfect, and utilize in a variety of ways for a plethora of circumstances.

Most importantly, what happened in 1960 showed young people the power they possessed to address their grievances and

ultimately bring about change on both local and national levels if they organized themselves and remained committed.

Dr. Kelton Edmonds is a Professor of History at California University of Pennsylvania. His primary research is on Black Student Activism in the United States. He is a native of Portsmouth, VA and graduated from I.C. Norcom High school in 1993. He holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in Secondary Education-History from North Carolina A&T State University. He earned his Ph.D. in 20th Century US History from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Early history of Blacks and medicine in the U.S.

By Glenn Ellis

- From the time that Africans were enslaved on the west coast of Africa and packed onto ships for the horrific voyage across the Middle Passage, we have been intrinsically tied to the growth and development of the field of medicine in America.

This troubled history began with the substandard medical attention provided on the ships by doctors, who's charge was to keep as many enslaved beings alive as possible, in order to ensure the traders would make as much from the auctions that awaited them.

These doctors embraced their role, seeing it as an opportunity to enhance their reputations, as well as to improve their experience and practice dealing with a myriad of health issues within a captive patient base.

Once sold, and finding homes on plantations in this strange land, the inferior medical care continued. After all, there was an unlimited supply of human cargo headed, continuously, to America's shores.

On the plantations in the South, doctors were few and far between, and their range of care was dependent upon their individual, professional training. Due to the shortage of doctors, the enslaved Africans were often left on their own to treat illnesses, handle medical emergencies, and to bring new life into this world. Many of these Africans continued to use traditional homemade remedies, folk beliefs, conjuring, and superstition to help meet their medical needs.

The shortage of doctors during this time was made worse by the fact that the Old South had only five medical colleges before 1845, and medical students spent only one to two years working with a preceptor and attended only a few lecture courses to complete their medical training.

In fact, due to the large numbers of enslaved Africans across the South, plantations provided a "training ground" for medical schools, students, and doctors. Many learned human anatomy through some of the most inhuman means, since people of African descent were thought by whites to be different in the physiology and medical needs.

There was also an opportunity to conduct medical research, and to develop, and perfect, many medical procedures; some of which are still in common use in medicine today.

Professor Ran Hogarth calls this "Medicalizing Blackness" from her book of the same name). A few of the most notorious examples of this are:

Southern physician Dr. Samuel Cartwright, who believed that the size of black people's brains was "a ninth or tenth less than in other races of men," while black people's hearing, sight, and sense of smell were better. This "medicalization of blackness" wasn't removed from the medical manual for Psychiatric diagnosis until the 1970's.

Dr. Cartwright also is responsible for another instance of "Medicalizing Blackness". He coined the term "Drapetomania" (with Greek roots roughly translating to "runaway slave" and "crazy") as a "disease that causes slaves to run away". Dr. Cartwright outlined a treatment for this "disease"; he reassured slaveowners that it was entirely curable by "whipping the devil" out of the slaves who suffered from it!

From these we know that Dr. Cartwright was among the first respected doctors throughout the country who saw being black and enslaved, and wanting to be free, was a psychological disorder.

Just as heinous as Dr. Cartwright's assertion was the "work" of Dr. J. Marion Sims, who is considered the "Father of Gynecology". Vesico-vaginal fistula (VVF) results in a tear from the bladder to the vagina, in pregnant women during a difficult labor. Dr. Sims is credited for perfecting the procedure to successfully treat VVF, to the relief and benefit of millions of (mostly white) women all over the world. Prior to Sims' "contribution" to the field of Gynecology, women in Europe and the United States who suffered with VVF became social outcasts rejected from society. Great advancement for medicine, right?

The problem is...Dr. Sims conducted the development and testing of this revolutionary procedure on enslaved African women. In order to conduct research, Sims also needed to learn and understand as much as possible about the little-known anatomy

of a woman's reproductive system. He also needed to carry out countless attempts to perfect the procedures and develop the right instruments. He did this all successfully, with one exception: Dr. Sims did these extensively invasive, surgical procedures, often with any anesthesia!

Probably, the brightest ray of hope began to shine for enslaved Africans, as it related to medical care, came around, and after, emancipation. This represented the period of the rise of black hospitals and medical schools, beginning with Freedman's Hospital in 1862 in Washington, DC.

However, this was not to signal a permanent change for the better for Black health in the United States.

By 1920, there were over 200 Black hospitals, staffed by Black doctors and staff.

By some counts, this number reached almost 500 across the nation! But, between 1961 and 1988, 50 closed, and another couple of dozen merged. Today, there is only one Black hospital...Howard University Hospital; and it is being managed by a Hedge Fund with a horrible record for running



hospitals. One of their flagship hospitals, Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia closed last year as a result of poor management.

African Americans remain the least healthy ethnic group in the USA, a somber legacy of years of racial and social injustice. As we continue to celebrate our history and our heritage, let's be mindful of the history of institutional racism in medicine.

Remember, I'm not a doctor. I just sound like one. Take good care of yourselves and live the

best life possible!

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice.

Glenn Ellis, is Research Bioethics Fellow at Harvard Medical School and author of *Which Doctor?*, and *Information is the Best Medicine*. Ellis is an active media contributor on *Health Equity and Medical Ethics*. For more good health information visit: www.glennellis.com

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International



Australia has been getting hotter and drier for decades. No one listened to the warnings

Newyorkbeacon.com

Australia was already grappling with extreme heat and one of the worst droughts on record when devastating bushfires tore through the bone dry land.

For months, the infernos have raged through Australia's southeast, leaving parts of the country choking under some of the worst air pollution in the world.

Since September, more than 18 million hectares (44 million acres) of bush, land and forest have been burned. At least 28 people have died, around 3,000 homes have been destroyed and about one billion animals could have been affected.

Heavy rain down the east coast this week has temporarily eased the crisis, but authorities warn the fire risk is not over — bushfire season typically ends in March. Only last week, Australia's capital city of Canberra declared a state of emergency as bushfires moved rapidly in the area.

Scientists had warned for more than a decade that an extreme bushfire season was coming — and that the climate crisis was to blame.

While natural climate drivers created a perfect storm of hot and dry conditions this year, the sheer scale and intensity of the recent fires have led some experts to claim the world has now reached a turning point.

China still mostly closed down as virus deaths pass 1,000

BEIJING (AP) — The daily death toll in China from a new virus topped 100 for the first time, pushing the total fatalities above 1,000 Tuesday as the World Health Organization announced a new name for the disease caused by the virus.

Despite the official end of the extended Lunar New Year holiday, China remained mostly closed for business as many remained at home, with some 60 million people under virtual quarantine.

In Geneva, WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced a new name for the disease caused by the virus —

COVID-19 — saying officials wanted to avoid stigmatizing any geographic location, group of people or animal that might be linked to the disease and to make it clear it was a new coronavirus discovered in 2019.

"Having a name matters to prevent the use of other names that can be inaccurate or stigmatizing. It also gives us a standard format to use for any future coronavirus outbreaks," the WHO chief said, adding that the name was agreed upon by officials at WHO, the World Organization for Animal Health and the Food and Agriculture Organization.



Nigeria rounding up journalists for exposing corruption

(GIN) —

Nigeria is rounding up journalists who investigate corruption — jailing them for indefinite periods of time and accusing them of treason.

Agba Jalingo, publisher of Cross River Watch, was arrested and jailed last August 2019 until this month when a Cross River court granted bail. He faces trial over a report written by the newspaper alleging that Cross River State Governor Ben Ayade diverted 500 million naira meant for the establishment of Cross River Microfinance Bank.

Charges against Jalingo also include his fraternizing with Sowore Omoyele, publisher of Sahara Reporters and one-time presidential candidate. Charges against them include treasonable felony, terrorism, cultism, and disturbance of public peace.

In a separate development, Fejiro Oliver, publisher of the privately owned Secret Reporters news site, faces five counts of violating the 2015 cybercrime act in connection to articles detailing alleged corruption in Nigeria's Sterling Bank. A former Bank employee turned whistleblower was also charged, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists which reviewed the charge sheet.

Also this month, Nigerian



A. Jalingo

police charged Gidado Yushau, publisher of the privately owned News Digest website, and freelance journalist Alfred Olufemi with criminal conspiracy and defamation.

After the death of Alex Ogbu in January, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) called on the Nigerian authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into Ogbu's death. He was a reporter for the RegentAfrica Times magazine and website, while he was covering a protest by the Islamic Movement in Nigerian capital, Abuja, on Jan. 21. Ogbu was found dead with an injury to the back of his head. The police had been firing teargas and live rounds to disperse the protesters, Nigerian media outlets quoted witnesses as saying. It was the second death of a journalist in a year's time, the first being young

Channels TV journalist, Precious Owolabi, who was killed in similar circumstances on July 22, 2019. No one has been arrested for his murder.

Finally, the trial of publisher Omoyele Sowore and his co-defendant Olawale Bakare has been adjourned till March 11 on two amended charges of treasonable felony. The prosecution accuses them of organizing a protest tagged #RevolutionNow aimed at toppling the regime of the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari.

Five other counts comprising money laundering and cyberstalking were removed following the amended charges filed on January 11, 2020.

Nigeria is ranked 120th out of 180 countries in RSF's 2019 World Press Freedom Index.

Red card for Portugal over racist abuse of Malian soccer star

(GIN) —

Racism is rife in international soccer, with fans taking physical and verbal aim at players of the opposing team.

After the routine apologies of the coaches and local officials, what has really been done to end the frequent racist outbursts, often accompanied by flying chairs or banana peels? This week, star striker Moussa Marega of Mali brought the unpleasant behavior to world attention as he stalked off the field when his successful play scoring the winning goal sparked an avalanche of ugly chants and racist taunts.

Marega had just scored the second goal in a 2-1 win over team Guimaraes at the D Afonso Henriques Stadium when the insults rained down. A shoving match ensued as his own teammates and even opposition players tried to prevent him from leaving instead of supporting him.

It took Marega several minutes to leave the field when he was substituted.

Incidents such as the latest one in Portugal are emblematic of the rise of racism in professional and grassroots soccer according to Kick It Out, a leading UK orga-

nization that works to tackle discrimination and believes racism in the sport is "worse now than it was five years ago."

Sanjay Bhandari, the new chair of Kick it Out, says complacency from fans and governing bodies could allow football to regress even further. "So our challenge is we've got to avoid thinking: 'Don't worry, we can never do that' — because we could."

Portugal's colonial history of racism is further downplayed or denied by the International Lusophone Movement which promotes cultural ties between Portuguese-speaking countries. "Anyone who knows anything about Europe has to agree that Portugal is probably... the least racist country in Europe," said the head of the body of speakers of Portuguese.

This rosy picture has been clouded by studies suggesting discrimination in areas ranging from education to housing, employment to the justice system. There's also a shortage of Black faces in politics, business and the media.

"Racism is deep-rooted, is systemic and it's structural," said Beatriz Gomes Dias, president of Djass, an association of Afro-Portuguese citizens.



M. Marega

uguese citizens. "We have to admit that Portugal is as racist as other European countries."

Portuguese is the spoken language in several countries in Africa — namely Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe.



Remembering

Dancer/Actress/Singer Paula Kelly

By Travis Pittman

Paula Kelly, star of “Night Court” and “Women of Brewster Place,” died at 77. In addition to her EMMY-nominated roles, Kelly was also an accomplished dancer, choreographer and singer. Kelly died at a care facility in California, according to the Washington Post. She had been struggling with her health. Deadline reports she died of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Kelly earned an EMMY nomination in 1984 for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series, playing public defender (Liz Williams) on “Night Court.” She appeared only in the show’s first season.

Paula received another EMMY nomination, playing one of TV’s first Black lesbian characters in “The Women of Brewster Place,” a two-night miniseries in 1989.

She had appearances on a number of TV sitcoms and dramas, and had roles in such films as “The Andromeda Strain,” “Soylent Green,” and “Once Upon A Time When We Were Colored.”

Kelly also appeared in 1969



Paula Kelly

she went on to sing and dance in a number of musical TV specials and/or variety shows headlining Gene Kelly (with whom she performed a duet), Dean Martin, Quincy Jones, Richard Pryor and former “Sweet Charity” co-star Sammy Davis Jr.

Kelly also appeared as Tiger Lily, teaming up with Danny Kaye and Mia Farrow for the BBC production of “Peter Pan” (1976), as well as taking on the dual role of co-choreographer. In 1971, she starred in a Los Angeles stage production of the all-singing, all-dancing musical revue “Don’t Bother Me, I Can’t Cope” for which she won the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award.

Since the popularity of musicals had waned by the early 70s, Paula had little choice but to take on straight dramatic acting roles. On several occasions she provided the female interest in a series of fashionable, sassy, tough blaxploitation films, playing cool, happening chicks opposite action men like Robert Hooks, Paul Winfield and Thalmus Rasulala (and often rising above the routine dramatic material afforded her).

Paula was ‘Leggy Peggy’ in the cult comedy “Uptown Saturday Night” (1974) with Sidney Poitier, Bill Cosby and Richard Pryor and had featured roles in the science fiction classics “The Andromeda Strain” (1971) and “Soylent Green” (1973). Paula Kelly retired from acting in 1999. Her husband was the British film and television director Don Chaffey who predeceased her in 1990. —IMDb Mini Biography By: I.S.Mowis.



Paula the dancer

film adaptation of “Sweet Charity,” dancing on a rooftop alongside Shirley MacLaine and Chita Rivera. Choreographer Bob Fosse once called her “the best dancer I’ve ever seen,” according to the Washington Post.

MORE ABOUT PAULA KELLY

Born October 21, 1943 in Jacksonville, Florida, Dancer/Actress Paula Kelly died February 9, 2020 in Ingelwood, California of heart complications.

The tall, graceful, accomplished American actress/singer/dancer and choreographer Paula Kelly was one of three daughters, of parents Ruth and Lehman Kelly. The family moved to Harlem when she was six years old.

Unlike her siblings, she had strong musical inclinations which were recognized by her father (himself a jazz musician) who enrolled her in the Fiorello LaGuardia High School of Music and Art. Paula excelled as a star pupil. This opened doors to an audition at the prestigious Juilliard School and led to a four year scholarship.

Having trained under the academy’s first director of dance, Martha Hill, she graduated in 1964 and that same year made her debut on Broadway. During much of the 60s, specializing in modern dance, she performed with such luminaries as Martha Graham and Alvin Ailey and went on tour as a dancer with Harry Belafonte.

The inevitable breakthrough to popular success came in 1967 when she was cast as Helene (taxi

dancer at the Fandango Ballroom) in London’s West End production of “Sweet Charity,” directed and choreographed by Bob Fosse. Paula ended up winning the London Variety Award for Best Supporting Actress.

The play enjoyed a healthy run but was ultimately eclipsed by the motion picture “Sweet Charity” (1969) for which Paula was able to recreate her stage role. Now firmly established on the screen,



Actors Robert Hooks and Paula Kelly

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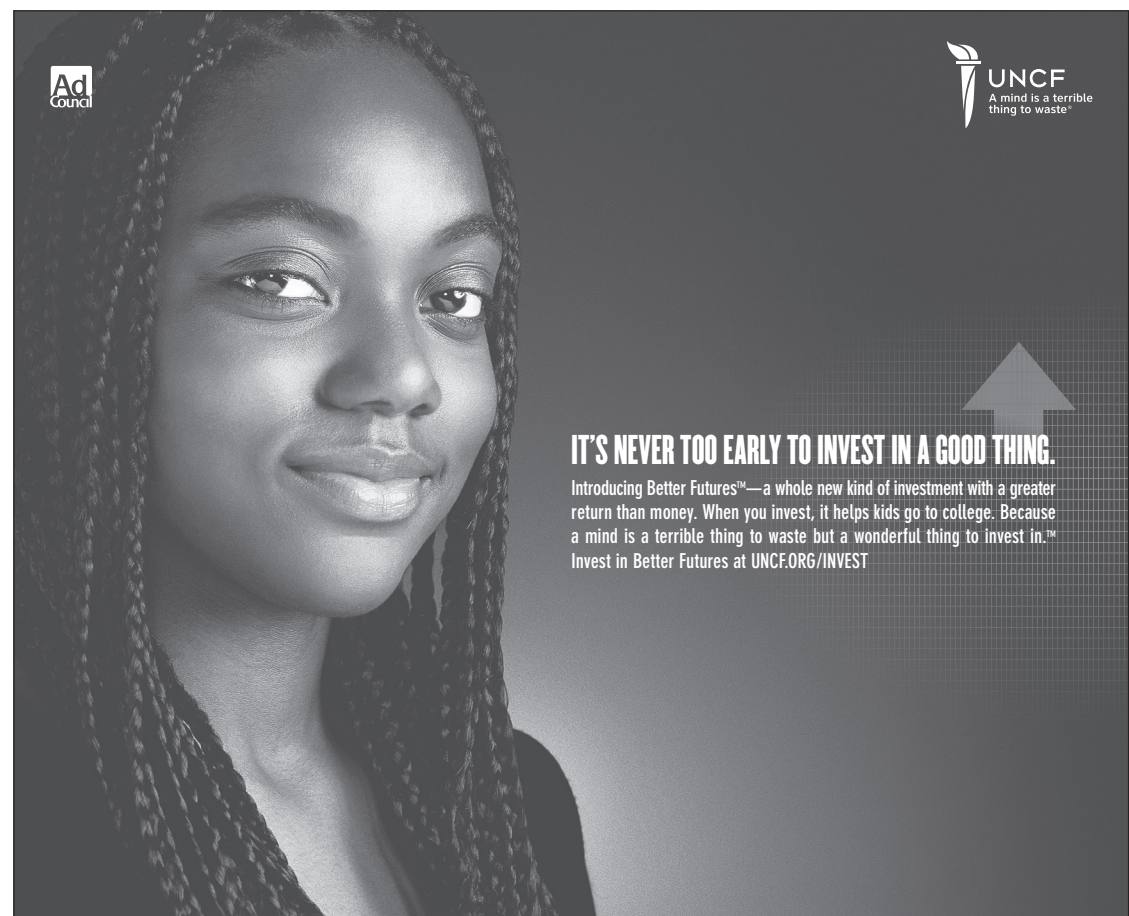
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Christian McBride portrays Black History on 'The Movement Revisited' at GRAMMY Museum

By Gail Mitchell

History never goes out of style. It teaches, illuminates, influences and inspires. Jazz Bassist **Christian McBride's** 'The Movement Revisited: A Musical Portrait of Four Icons' embodies all that and more as it re-examines the '60s civil rights movement—and its context within today's roiling social climate.

Paying homage to social justice reform Pioneers Rosa Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali, the Mack Avenue Records release (Feb. 7) has been 20 years in the making as McBride explained to a packed GRAMMY Museum audience in downtown Los Angeles (Feb. 13) during an interview with the venue's Scott Goldman.

'The Movement Revisited' began as a performance piece commissioned in the late '90s by an arts society in Portland, Maine in honor of Black History Month. McBride was given two requests at the outset. The piece had to incorporate history and "feature a choir and I didn't know anything about writing for a choir," McBride recalled. "The other challenge was how to best musically portray history: write a piece that captured an entire era or pick certain people?"

So he chose four people that resonated with him personally, stemming from a childhood spent poring over his grandmother's extensive collection ("Today, some might say she was a hoarder," noted a laughing McBride) of the popular Black culture magazines Ebony and Jet.

In its first iteration, The Movement suite (recorded in 1998) was composed for a quartet and a choir, with four choir members doubling as narrators that would bring the aforementioned civil rights activists to life through their own speeches and writings.

McBride premiered a second iteration of the composition during a 2008 performance at Walt Disney Hall in L.A. At that point, the Los Angeles Philharmonic recruited four actors to portray the narrators: Carl Lumbly (Malcolm X), the late James Avery (Ali), Loretta Devine



Christian McBride and Beverly Todd at the GRAMMY Museum (Photo: Rebecca Sapp/Getty Images for The Recording Academy)

(Parks) and Wendell Pierce (King).

Referencing Duke Ellington's 1943 tone-setting opus Black, Brown and Beige, McBride said he had no detailed plan in mind as 'The Movement' evolved over the years. It was enough to just be able to show how grateful I was to them [Ellington and others] by writing this piece, he explained. "I didn't have anything specific guide-wise in mind."

The latest version of 'The Movement Revisited' still features a chorus and narrators—but they're accompanied now by a 17-piece big band. The four narrators hand-picked by McBride include poet Sonia Sanchez (Parks), and actors

Vondie Curtis-Hall (Malcolm X), Dion Graham (Ali) and Pierce (reprising King). The addition of a fifth movement, "Apotheosis," was inspired by Barack Obama's election as the first Black President of the United States.

"What happened at that moment [Obama's election] came from the work all those icons did," said McBride. "That's why it's important that artists, writers, actors and musicians engage in social justice. There's something about the energy that comes from music. It can change something really negative into something positive; counter resistance with beauty."

Josh Nelson and Christian Mc-

Bride perform at An Evening With Christian McBride at the GRAMMY Museum on Feb. 13, 2020 in Los Angeles. Following the interview and a brief audience Q&A, McBride was joined onstage by pianist Josh Nelson. The pair performed a spirited interpretation of Oscar Peterson's "Blues Etude."

Then, to give the audience a taste of the powerful and moving sonic and lyrical portraits comprising 'The Movement Revisited,' McBride and Nelson welcomed veteran Actress Beverly Todd, subbing for Sanchez as Rosa Parks.

Between late February and March, the six-time Grammy winner will be performing a series of

concerts overseas. His itinerary includes Geneva in Switzerland, Paris, London, Amsterdam and Bezirk-Landstrasse, Austria.

But performing and composing aren't the only things keeping McBride busy. The Philadelphia native hosts and produces The Lowdown: Conversations with Christian on SiriusXM, as well as National Public Radio's weekly Jazz Night in America.

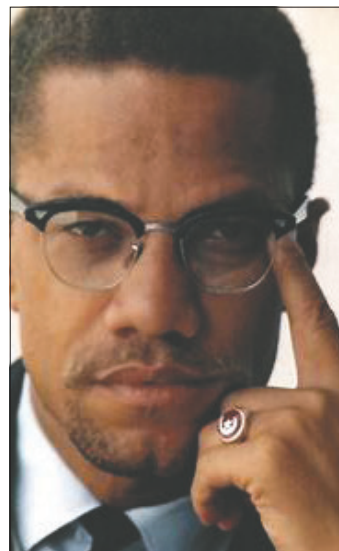
He also serves as Artistic Advisor for Jazz Programming at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and work with Jazz House Kids, the community arts organization founded by his wife, Vocalist Melissa Walker.



Rosa Parks



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Malcolm X



Muhammad Ali

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